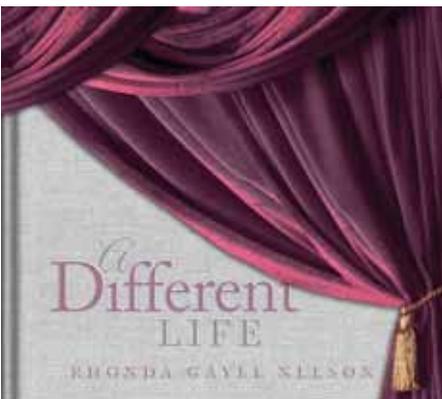


Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Rhonda Nelson



The wife of Wayne Nelson (Little River Band) shares her thoughts on life, career and being married to a famous musician in her book, *A Different Life*.



We often see celebrities on television, in the movies or onstage. It's natural to think a celebrity must have a life that we can only dream about or their spouse must certainly have the good life and never have to work for anything. That would be a quick and unfair judgment, however. In her book, *A Different Life* (Half Nelson Press) Rhonda Nelson discusses many of life's events that all of us experience. "There is such a perception when your name is, dare I say, attached to a rock and roll star. A lot of that perception is very inaccurate. I wanted to write this book so people can see who Wayne and I really are and what our lives are like," explains Rhonda. "My book is not a difficult read. It comes from the heart. I wanted people to experience what is true. I wanted to pull the curtain back and let others know our lives are real just like anyone else. We do not live in an artificial bubble. We experi-

ence the same highs and lows of life. That was my main focus for writing the book."

"I think it's important to have your own identify. I never thought I only want to be known as the wife of so and so. Yes, that is one role I have that I take very seriously but I am also me. I have brains. I have run several businesses on my own including a restaurant and inn. I think too sometimes once women pass age fifty, we need to reinvent ourselves. Every line in my skin and every gray hair on my head are from life experience. It comes from the wisdom we learn along the way. I think we have a lot to offer and pass on to the younger generation. It's important," said Rhonda.

"Wayne and I have been together for twenty years. I am a little guarded when meeting people. I don't like to be that way but sometimes you have to be careful because you may question why someone wants to know you. Do they want to know you for YOU or because you are attached to a famous person? Not everyone you meet has sincere intentions. Being in the public eye, you have to respect yourself and the reputation of the band. The longevity of the Little River Band is reliant upon its reputation, for not only the shows and the music but also everyone's character in, with and around the band. You have to take that into consideration."

A Different Life includes many of Rhonda and Wayne's life events. Many are joyous and happy while others are tragic and full of sorrow. It is not one big long party as some may think. Rhonda shares the importance of friendships, being close with a parent, adopting pets who are special needs, favorite recipes and photos. It is all rolled into a special book that readers will enjoy and perhaps be able to identify with their own life experiences.



Rhonda loves to cook. The recipes in the book are some of her favorites. "A new project that Wayne and I are working on is called, "Sound Bite Kitchen". This combines music and food, which are the two universal languages of the world. It is something everyone can relate to and understand. Musicians from other bands come in the kitchen and we prepare a dish. Then we sit in the studio living room. The guests will sing some of their hits and Wayne will sing a song or two from the Little River Band. We are just getting

this project started and are excited," said Rhonda.

Sometimes Rhonda will travel with Wayne on tour. She has been on the road with him several times over the past twenty years. "What I love to see is the families bringing their kids to a show and over time those kids are bringing their kids! Everyone knows the words to the songs. I think Little River Band music has a way of reaching the soul and allowing people to connect. It's fun to see the multiple generations attend the shows. That is what keeps Wayne going. He turns 68 this year and it is his passion for sharing the music with people and letting them relive some awesome memories of their own."

www.rhondaraves.com
A Different Life is available through Rhonda's web site and Amazon.com
 Sound Bite Kitchen is on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeW9Jy6JbPU>



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